

Message Text

PAGE 01 CANBER 06703 110143Z

64

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 AID-20 HEW-08 SS-20 L-03 CU-04

IGA-02 AGR-20 EB-11 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 JUSE-00

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SNM-02 SY-10 TRSE-00 USIA-15 NSC-10

SCI-06 OMB-01 ABF-01 DRC-01 (ISO) W

----- 113068

R 110042Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2158

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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FOR S/NM FROM WELLMAN

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, AS

SUBJ: NARCOTICS: CONSULTATIONS WITH GOA

ON CND AGENDA

1. EXCHANGED VIEWS ON DECEMBER 10 WITH O'CONNOR, BATES AND SCULLION (DEPARTMENT OF CUSTOMS AND EXCISE) AND KELSO AND BUTLER (FOREIGN AFFAIRS). O'CONNOR WILL PROBABLY HEAD GOA DELEGATION TO CND MEETING AND SCULLION OF AUSTRALIAN NARCOTICS BUREAU WILL BE A SUPPORTING MEMBER. IN WIDE-RANGING DISCUSSION OF ALL AGENDA ITEMS, IT APPEARED THAT U.S. AND AUSTRALIA WOULD GENERALLY TAKE PARALLEL AND MUTUALLY SUPPORTING POSITIONS AND PURSUE SIMILAR OBJECTIVES AT CND MEETING. PRINCIPAL VIEWS AUSTRALIANS EXPRESSED WERE AS FOLLOWS:

2. ILLICIT TRAFFIC: AUSTRALIAN PRIORITIES ARE HEROIN, HASHISH AND HASHISH OIL, SYNTHETICS, MARIJUANA AND COCAINE IN THAT ORDER. CURRENTLY COCAINE IS FAR DOWN ON LIST, BUT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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PAGE 02 CANBER 06703 110143Z

COULD BECOME POTENTIALLY MORE IMPORTANT IN EVENT INDONESIA COCA PRODUCTION, WHICH AUSTRALIANS STATE STILL EXISTS DESPITE INDONESIA CLAIM OF ELIMINATION, SHOULD RE-EMERGE AND EXPAND. ALSO CONNECTION BETWEEN

U.S. AND AUSTRALIAN DRUG USE PATTERNS COULD GIVE COCAINE HIGHER PRIORITY IN FUTURE.

3. REPORT AD HOC COMMITTEE ON ILLICIT TRAFFIC IN FAR EAST: O'CONNOR POINTED OUT REPORT HAD UNANIMOUS SUPPORT COMMITTEE MEMBERS, BUT RAISED QUESTION WHETHER THIS IMPLIED THEIR GOVERNMENTS WOULD SUPPORT. FOR EXAMPLE THAI MEMBER HAD APPEARED TO RESERVE HIS GOVERNMENT'S POSITION IN APPROVING FINAL REPORT. O'CONNOR HOPED REPORT WOULD OBTAIN CND APPROVAL, SINCE IT DID NOT CALL FOR SUBCOMMISSION BUT RATHER RECOMMENDED LESS EXPENSIVE ANNUAL MEETINGS OF CHIEFS OF ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES UNDER UN CHAIRMANSHIP WITH UNFDAC FINANCING. HE THOUGHT UN FINANCING OF TRAVEL OF GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND SECRETARIAT COSTS (WITH GOVERNMENTS PAYING SUBSISTENCE) WOULD BE SUFFICIENT TO INSURE ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS BUT EXPRESSED OPINION THERE SHOULD BE CONSULTATIONS ON THIS POINT. O'CONNOR ADVANCED VIEW THAT PROPOSED UNFDAC REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE IN FAR EAST WOULD BE INDICATED UN OFFICIAL TO WORK WITH ANNUAL MEETINGS OF ENFORCEMENT CHIEFS. O'CONNOR RECOGNIZED THAT IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE IF NOT NECESSARY FOR CND TO PASS RESOLUTION APPROVING AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS. HE INTENDED TO HAVE FORM OF SUCH A RESOLUTION READY, BUT HOPES THAT OTHER CND MEMBERS OUTSIDE FAR EAST REGIONAL GROUPS WOULD TAKE LEAD ON THIS.

4. DRUG ABUSE: O'CONNOR INDICATED GOA WOULD SUPPORT IMPLEMENTATION OF RESOLUTION 10 OF 25TH CND INVITING WHO TO ASSIST CND BY PREPARING TIMELY REPORTS ON EPIDEMIOLOGICAL PATTERNS OF DRUG ABUSE. AUSTRALIANS POINTED OUT AUSTRALIA HAD POLYDRUG ABUSE BEFORE U.S., DUE TO DRUG SUPPLY PROBLEM. THEY FOUND INTERESTING U.S. SUGGESTION FOR DISCUSSION OF METHODS OF DETERMINING DRUG ABUSE POTENTIAL, ESPECIALLY OF PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES, AND WILL ALERT HEALTH AUTHORITIES TO THIS POSSIBILITY, BUT EXPRESSED VIEW THAT THIS WOULD OPEN ENORMOUS FIELD WHERE EXPERT KNOWLEDGE NECESSARY AND AGREEMENT DIFFICULT.
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PAGE 03 CANBER 06703 110143Z

5. REVISED FORM FOR ANNUAL REPORTS: AUSTRALIANS FEEL THIS SHOULD BE PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY OF UN SECRETARIAT RATHER THAN OF GOVERNMENTS. DIVISION OF NARCOTIC DRUGS SHOULD DETERMINE WHAT IS NECESSARY AND REQUEST IT. IN FACE OF DESCRIPTION OF SITUATION AS VIEWED BY U.S. EXPERTS WHO HAD PARTICIPATED IN REVISIONS, AUSTRALIANS INDICATED THEY WOULD SHARE U.S. VIEWS AS TO CRITERIA TO BE APPLIED AND ACTION TO BE TAKEN.

6. UNFDAC OPERATIONS: KELSO (FOREIGN AFFAIRS) INDICATED GOA SUPPORTED FUND BUT FURTHER AUSTRALIAN CONTRIBUTIONS WOULD DEPEND ON FUND PERFORMANCE AND EFFECTIVENESS AND

ALSO ON SCALE OF CONTRIBUTIONS BY LARGER, RICHER DEVELOPED COUNTRIES. HE SUGGESTED UNFDAC CONCENTRATE ON SUCH COUNTRIES AS FRG AND JAPAN AND DID NOT THINK EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S VISIT TO AUSTRALIA TIMELY NOW. O'CONNOR RAISED QUESTIONS ABOUT PROCESS OF SELECTION OF FUND'S AND DIVISION'S OVERSEAS REPRESENTATIVES, AND WONDERED IF SOME SURVEILLANCE BY CND OR A CND SUBCOMMITTEE MIGHT BE DESIRABLE. HE THOUGHT TERMS OF REFERENCE OF REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES WERE IMPORTANT AND EXPRESSED HOPE YOUNGER, MORE ENERGETIC PEOPLE COULD BE ENGAGED. CND WITHOUT GETTING INTO OPERATIONS OF FUND OR DIVISION, SHOULD DISCUSS CONCEPTS AND PRINCIPLES OF STAFFING. HE WELCOMED ANTICIPATED EVALUATION OF FUND PROJECTS AND OPERATIONS, AND SAID AUSTRALIA WOULD SUPPORT MORE ATTENTION TO PROJECTS IN DEMAND FIELD, ESPECIALLY RESEARCH PROJECTS BY WHO IN DRUG ABUSE AND BY UNESCO IN DRUG EDUCATION WHERE "MUCH OF WHAT HAD BEEN DONE WAS BELIEVED TO BE WRONG." IF UNFDAC'S POSITION VIS-A-VIS THE SYC NEEDS TO BE STRENGTHENED THE CND SHOULD DO SO BY APPROPRIATE RESOLUTIONS, HE SAID.

7. OPIUM FOR MEDICAL SUPPLIES: O'CONNOR EXPRESSED UNDERSTANDING OF AND AGREEMENT WITH U.S. ANALYSIS AND VIEWS. AUSTRALIA HAS FELT NO SHORTAGE OF NATURAL OPIATES, AND THERE HAVE BEEN NO PRESSURES HERE FOR SUBSTITUTION OF SYNTHETICS. AUSTRALIA HAS BEEN LICENSING ONE COMPANY TO PRODUCE MORPHINE FOR DOMESTIC REQUIREMENTS FROM POPPY STRAW GROWN UNDER STRICT CONTROLS IN TASMANIA AND PROCESSED UNDER CONTROLLED CONDITIONS IN VICTORIA. OBJECTIVE IS TO MEET LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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PAGE 04 CANBER 06703 110143Z

DOMESTIC NEEDS FOR CODEINE AND TO HAVE SOME FOR EXPORT TO U.K., BUT PRODUCTION DEPENDENT ON AVAILABILITY OF SUITABLE ACREAGE AND COST COMPETITION FROM OTHER CROPS. CURRENTLY PRODUCTION IS BELOW DOMESTIC REQUIREMENTS. (AUSTRALIA ALSO EXPORTS CODEINE PROCESSED FROM MORPHINE IMPORTED FROM POLAND.) AUSTRALIA MIGHT BE PREPARED DISCUSS THEIR POPPY STRAW PROCESSING UNDER SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AGENDA ITEM IF THIS WERE APPROPRIATE. A SECOND COMPANY HAS APPLIED FOR AUTHORITY TO GROW PAPAVER BRACTEATUM ON EXPERIMENTAL BASIS, BUT NONE HAS YET BEEN PLANTED.

8. TREATIES: GOA IS WELL ALONG IN PROCESS OF RATIFICATION OF PSYCHOTROPICS CONVENTION AND EXPECTS PARLIAMENT WILL RATIFY IN AUTUMN SESSION 1974. ELECTION OF NEW GOVERNMENT AND HIGHER PRIORITY MATTERS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR DELAY BUT THERE IS NO ISSUE OF SUBSTANCE AND RATIFICATION IS ASSURED. AUSTRALIANS SPOKE WITH PRIDE OF SUCCESSFUL INTENSIVE EFFORTS WHICH BROUGHT ABOUT EARLY RATIFICATION OF AMENDING PROTOCOL TO SINGLE CONVENTION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS. THEY EXPRESSED VIEW THAT CANNABIS MUST EVENTUALLY BE TRANSFERRED FROM SINGLE CONVENTION TO PSYCHOTROPICS CONVENTION.

9. PERIODICITY OF CND MEETINGS: SUBJECT TO CONSULTATION
WITH FOREIGN OFFICE, O'CONNOR EXPRESSED VIEW THAT AUSTRALIA
COULD SUPPORT U.S. POSITION FAVORING CONTINUANCE OF REGULAR
BIENNIAL MEETINGS WITH SPECIAL MEETINGS IN ALTERNATE YEARS
SO LONG AS INTERNATIONAL DRUG ABUSE SITUATION SO JUSTIFIED.
HARROP

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 10 MAY 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NARCOTICS, DRUG CONTROL, DRUG TRAFFIC, AGREEMENTS, HEROIN, HASHISH, MARIJUANA, COCAINE, MEETING AGENDA, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, MEETINGS, MEETING DELEGATIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, PSYCHOTROPIC AGENTS, FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS, UNGA RESOLUTIONS, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 DEC 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: collinp0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973CANBER06703
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: CANBERRA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731256/abqceerc.tel
Line Count: 172
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: collinp0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 OCT 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09-Oct-2001 by elyme>; APPROVED <08 MAR 2002 by collinp0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NARCOTICS: CONSULTATIONS WITH GOA ON CND AGENDA
TAGS: SNAR, SNAR, AS, UNCND
To: STATE INFO GENEVA
USUN NY
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005